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REMARKS ON HYDROPHOBIA.

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Of the various occasional diseases, to which the human body is subject, there is not one better calculated to engage the attention of the medical profession than that under consideration, whether we regard the horrible sufferings caused by its apprehension or presence, its almost invariable fatal termination, or the acknowledged absence of any uniform morbid signs, to demonstrate, after death, upon what organ so remarkable an influence had been exerted.

This disease, produced by the bite of a rabid animal, generally of the canine species, and evidently exerting its principal force upon the nervous system, may truly be said, after the development of the characteristic symptoms, to bid defiance to the best directed efforts of physicians. It is sufficiently proved, that of those bitten by rabid animals, scarcely one half will become affected with hydrophobia, in consequence of the saliva of the animal having been wiped off the teeth in passing through the clothes, before coming in contact with the skin, which must be abraded, or torn, before the poisonous influence can be communicated. It is stated by Mr. Hunter, that of twenty persons bitten by the same rabid dog, but one suffered from the disease.

A wound inflicted by a rabid animal gradually heals, as if from other causes, and after an interval of from six weeks to twelve months, or according to some apparently well-authenticated cases, even longer, there is experienced a pain or uneasy sensation, with inflammation in the situation of the bite or scar, which tingles, aches, or feels cold, stiff or numb, or becomes livid or swollen, at times opening anew, and discharging a little colored serum. The pain extends from the sore or scar, towards the central parts of the body, generally thought to follow the course of the nerves, though cases have been noticed where the absorbents and glands were red and inflamed, at the forming stage of the true symptoms.

The symptoms of hydrophobia are an excessive nervous irritability, anxiety and depression, fear, constant sighing and great melancholy, a spasmodic constriction of the muscles of the fauces, throat and chest, excited by different external influences, especially by the sight of liquids

or the sound produced by pouring them from one vessel to another, or by attempting to swallow them, which is frequently attended by great difficulty, and is often absolutely impossible. A paroxysm will often be produced by a sudden agitation of the air. At the expiration of a few days, the patient becomes hurried in manner, and irritable in disposition; the eyes are haggard, glassy, fixed, and suffused with blood; there is great restlessness, starting up in a fright, almost immediately after lying down; he complains of pain and stiffness about the throat, is unable to swallow liquids, every effort to do so bringing on a paroxysm of choking and sobbing, which will continue to be repeated more severely each time for several days, when death comes to his relief. The pulse is at first not much affected, though soon becoming hard and strong, then weak and frequent, accompanied by a rapid prostration of strength. Although not positively settled, there are some grounds for believing that a human being laboring under this disease, can communicate it to another; hence the necessity of care on the part of nurses and attendants, not to allow any saliva to come in contact with, or remain on, a sore, an abraded surface, or a mucous membrane.

It is supposed by some that the morbid virus is not immediately absorbed, but remains in a dormant condition in the original wound, until morbid phenomena develope themselves in the part, to be quickly followed by the general symptoms. Too much stress cannot be laid on the absolute necessity of a thorough excision of the wound, and other local treatment, as soon after the bite as possible, or whenever any symptom, local or general, may manifest itself, and this irrespective of the length of time elapsed since the wound or first cause.

It may not be useless to remark, that, in no case, should the dog be killed, but rather should he be carefully secured; for, if he should die, the bitten person is no better off; and should the disease not occur nor the dog die, what an inconceivable amount of anxiety and terror will be spared to the individual and family. No good can result from killing the dog (except what can be obtained by his strict confinement), and yet that unnecessary act, as far as the bitten person is concerned, is the first thing done. The rabid dog is said, by Mr. Youatt, never to have fits or dread of water, which last he will seek with avidity, and lap for some time, while there exists an inability to swallow, from a paralysis of the muscles of the jaw and throat.

The earliest symptoms of madness in a dog, says Mr. Youatt, whose experience in this disease has been most extensive, are, sullenness, fidgetiness, constant change of posture; a steadfast gaze, expressive of suspicion; a constant licking of some part of his body, on which, most frequently, will be found a scar, where previously bitten; occasional vomiting; a depraved appetite, soon noticed by picking up and swallowing pieces of thread, hair, straw, and often lapping his urine and devouring his excrement. He flies fiercely at strangers, becomes impatient of correction, is quarrelsome with his companions, when chained will make evident efforts to escape, and, if at large, will attack those only who come in his way.

The expression of countenance is early remarkably changed; the eyes

glisten; about the second day a considerable discharge of saliva comes on, which continues for ten or twelve hours, and is followed by insatiable thirst. As soon as this flow of saliva has ceased, he appears to be troubled with a viscid matter in the fauces, working hard with his paws to get rid of it.

A loss of power in the voluntary muscles next occurs; the lower jaw hangs down, though frequently the paralysis is not complete. The animal staggers, falling frequently, whereas previously he had been in constant motion. His howl is short and peculiar, and his bark hoarse and unnatural. The respiration is laborious; the inspiration is attended with a singular grating, choking noise. Death generally occurs on the fourth or fifth day.

Treatment.—A great number of the articles of the *materia medica* have been resorted to for the cure of hydrophobia; but many, if not all heretofore used, are really useless, as time and failures have conclusively proved. The injection into the veins of different active substances has been proposed and tried by Magendie and others, without any positive cures, though the excessive nervous irritability has been calmed by injections into the veins of a solution of morphia. Were it not for the discovery of chloroform, that powerful controller of nervous action, and which judiciously though heroically used, it is reasonable to believe may prove curative, this injection into the veins would deserve further trials.

Although, when alluding to the curability of hydrophobia, we touch upon debatable ground, there can be no question of the real efficacy of a preventive plan, which it is necessary to enforce rigidly, as soon after the wound as possible. By adopting such a course, and the free use of chloroform, it is more than probable a large number of cures will be reported.

The first and most important remedy with which to commence the treatment, in case the preventive excision has been neglected, is a complete excision of the entire wound; for, although many persons, bitten by dogs proved to have been mad, do escape an attack, it is never allowable to act upon that presumption. Even in cases where a reasonable doubt may exist, it is all important to resort immediately to such an apparently severe remedy, it being preferable to enjoy the absolute immunity afforded by the operation early performed, rather than suffer the torture of the imagination dwelling upon the possible and inconceivable horrors of the disease. Should the bite have been inflicted in a joint, where no positive certainty can exist that all of the poison has been removed by excision, washed out, or the parts thoroughly touched with caustic, amputation alone can be depended upon; and, if no doubt should exist of the rabidness of the animal, this should be resorted to.

After having thoroughly excised the wound or wounds, cupping glasses should be continuously applied for one or more hours, it having been conclusively proved, by experiments, that the absorption of the most deadly poisons not only cannot proceed, as long as the application of glasses or suction is made, but, that, if continued sufficiently long, the poison will be entirely removed. The experiments of Dr. Barry and others show—

1st, That the application of cupping glasses to a poisonous wound will prevent the absorption of the poison, and consequent injurious effects.

2d, That the application of a cupping glass to a poisoned wound, even after a portion of the poison has been absorbed, and begun to manifest its effects upon the system, will arrest its further progress, and prevent their recurrence, as long as the cup or cups are permitted to remain on the part; and,

3d, That after a cupping glass has been applied for some time, the parts may be thoroughly washed with soap and water, and all unpleasant consequences avoided.

The bitten part having been completely removed by excision, and the cupping glasses having been applied for a considerable time, it is necessary to touch every part of the wound with a strong solution of lunar caustic, or pure nitric acid, and then to introduce into the wound a soft ointment of Spanish flies, basilicon, and turpentine, and over all apply a warm bread and milk or flaxseed meal poultice, every hour, to produce and keep up free discharges.

The propriety of adopting this prescribed course derives additional value from the fact that, in two individuals bitten by the same dog, no inconveniences resulted in the case where the wound remained open, or would not heal for months; while, in the other, where the wound healed in a short time, the usual symptoms manifested themselves at a future period, eventuating in death.

In cutting out the wound, generally made by one or more teeth, the following directions were given by the celebrated Abernethy—"Cut out effectually the cell into which the tooth has gone, by introducing a wooden skewer, cut in the shape of a tooth, into the cavity formed by it, and then remove the whole by an elliptical incision, cutting all around and beyond the skewer of wood."

The pain resulting from an effectual application of the remedies above noticed, is very great, to allay which, it is necessary to administer large and frequently-repeated doses of laudanum, or solution of morphia, by the mouth as well as by injection, the quantity and frequency of repetition necessarily depending upon the effects produced. The use of laudanum in very large doses throughout the whole course of the disease, is alone calculated to alleviate the sufferings of the patient, and by many is considered, in a curative point of view, the only remedy worthy of confidence.

An occasional powerful operation on the bowels is strongly recommended by some practitioners; while others insist upon the importance of maintaining a constant free discharge from the bowels, for which purpose a large dose of calomel, followed by one or more drops of croton oil, in sweet or castor oil, or mucilage, and an active cathartic injection of senna and salts, will generally be most likely to succeed.

The continued use of nauseants, as repeated doses of a solution of tartar emetic by the mouth, and tobacco injections, with the view of their relaxing effects upon the system, has appeared in some cases to have proved useful.

The use of mercurial preparations to produce profuse salivation, has

received the sanction of many medical men, and not a few cases are recorded of cures following such a course.

The frequent employment of a hot water or vapor bath, continued for a considerable time, is asserted to have proved serviceable in hydrophobia, both as a palliative and a curative agent.

In the commencement, as well as in the more advanced stage of hydrophobia, the repeated application of cups to the breast and spine, followed by blisters and counter-irritants, are powerful remedial agents, well calculated to counteract the cause upon which the spasmodic constriction of the muscles of the fauces, throat and chest depend.

Mr. Youatt strongly recommends large and repeated doses of belladonna, as a palliative and curative, to be used in conjunction with the above means.

There having been observed, in some cases of hydrophobia, a decided intermission of the paroxysm, during which the patient was free from any unpleasant symptoms, it seems a just inference that the administration of one or more large doses of quinine in quick succession might prove permanently beneficial.

In conclusion, it may be remarked, that, from the recorded cases of hydrophobia, the excision of the wound, the application of cupping glasses to the wound, as well as to the spine and breast, followed by the most active and permanent counter-irritants, active purgation by drastic cathartics, copious injections, nauseants by the mouth and rectum, large doses of laudanum, and, in the latter stages, stimulants and cordials, are, when the disease has fairly commenced, the principal means upon which any reliance can be placed to conduct the case to a successful termination.

December 15, 1853.

OBSTINATE PARALYSIS OF THE URINARY BLADDER AND COMPLETE RESTORATION AT CHILDBIRTH.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THIS case occurred in the person of Miss H., about 17 years of age, in November, 1851. She was first taken with pleurisy, from which she recovered in the usual time; but the bladder seemed to be left without the power of expelling its contents, forming complete retention—so much so, that the catheter had to be used three times a-day for nearly three weeks before there was any effort to void the urine. The general system seemed in every other respect, save this local disturbance of the bladder, to be in good condition; and this local disturbance of the bladder appeared to be clearly that of *paralysis of its muscular coat*. For fear, however, that some inflammatory action about the neck of the bladder might cause contraction of its sphincter, and thus produce the retention complained of, a few leeches were applied as near to the part as convenient, but without any effect. Belladonna was introduced into the vagina, and rubbed over the os uteri and about the neck of the bladder, with the hope that from the contiguity of the parts, relaxation might be induced, and spasm (if any existed) might be overcome—but all to no

purpose. Granville's lotion was applied along the spine; also blisters, with the view that the nerves of the bladder were torpid, and wanted stimulating into action—but all without effect. Strychnia was now used, in pills of 1-12 grain doses, and but two were taken before the bladder resumed its function.

After a few months the bladder again lost its power, and the strychnia was again resorted to, but it now failed to produce the same good results, and the paralysis continued in spite of any and every kind of treatment—so that she had daily and constantly to use the catheter for about twelve or fourteen months without any intermission. At this time the birth of her first child took place, when, and even while labor was progressing, the bladder resumed its function, the whole difficulty vanished, and there has been no return of it since—a period (to the time of writing) of about two weeks.

Several interesting points present themselves in the above case, for solution, as follows:—

Was the bladder paralyzed? If not,

Did pressure of the impregnated uterus prevent its action? But the bladder was in this way before the uterus became impregnated.

Did a retroverted uterus, then, by pressing against the neck of the bladder, cause the difficulty? But the strychnia succeeded at one time, when of course there could have been no such pressure from retroversion or gestation.

Such are some of the difficulties which present themselves in this case.

Dr. Roberts, who attended this lady in her confinement, and who also was familiar with this long-standing condition of her bladder, is clearly of the opinion that the bladder was in a state of paralysis, and that the long-continued pressure of the uterus acted as a constant and gentle stimulus, and when this pressure was removed, that the bladder was enabled immediately to resume its function.

This solution, however, does not explain the difficulty which was equally great during the period previous to this lady's marriage, and when the uterus was, consequently, not in a condition, from impregnation, to press upon the bladder, and yet its function returned. But still we believe the bladder was in a state of paralysis—as the prompt action of the strychnia in restoring its function seemed clearly to prove, which could not have been the case had pressure to any extent, from a retroverted uterus, as previously intimated, existed. Now we believe it is generally regarded that retroverted uterus, if not a direct, is at least an indirect, cause, by its pressure upon the neck of the bladder, in producing first retention of the urine, and then of paralysis of the bladder itself—so that such pressure as this latter, instead of correcting the mischief, seems rather, on the other hand, to be the sole cause of its existence and continuance.

If we now apply this reasoning of pressure from the retroverted uterus, to pressure from the impregnated uterus, upon the bladder, it would seem that we could not calculate much upon pressure in making a paralyzed bladder resume its functions.

The difficulty still remains—what was the cause of paralysis in the

bladder in the case of this lady? And how much agency had gestation and labor in removing such paralysis? We leave these questions in the care of more experienced observers, and will simply conclude by saying it is an extremely interesting fact to know that a long, and obstinately-protracted case of paralysis of the bladder, was cured on the delivery of the child.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 22d, 1853.

W. R. HANDY.

THE LATE PROFESSOR HORNER—PECULIAR IDIOSYNCRASY.

[THE following is extracted from an Introductory Lecture by Professor Samuel Jackson, of the University of Pennsylvania, delivered before the faculty and students Oct. 10, 1853. The lecture is intended as a discourse commemorative of the late Wm. E. Horner, M.D., of the same University, and contains a brief but comprehensive sketch of his life and a faithful delineation of his character. To those who were not personally acquainted with Prof. H., the extract given is mainly interesting as descriptive of a peculiar mental organization, the influence of which upon bodily health and the operation of remedial means, as exhibited in medical practice, every physician is aware of.—ED.]

It would not be doing justice to Dr. Horner, or give a correct idea of his energy, self-command, and indomitable resolution, or a true conception of the disadvantages under which he labored, the long unceasing struggles he sustained in his progress, and the heavy cost at which his success was attained, did I not reveal a peculiarity of temperament, or psychical idiosyncrasy, never observed or suspected to exist, by his most intimate associates and friends, or even by a large portion of his family circle.

While his exterior life appeared clear, bright, calm and prosperous, his interior life was dark, desponding, agitated with vague apprehensions, and every mental effort a conflict, a struggle, and a victory.

Amongst his papers is one entitled "My own Constitution," dated 1838. The following extracts will exemplify the condition I have mentioned: "It was considered at school that I learned with facility; but I never believed it. I have had headache or dull pains in the head three fourths of my waking life, seldom acute, but always such as to make me uncomfortable, and prefer solitude to company.

"Short intermissions of this state of suffering have occurred. I have then felt illuminated as the earth is when the sun emerges from behind a cloud. I have then hoped for a pleasurable existence, but it proved delusive, and I quickly relapsed into my ordinary state. Considering this serious obstacle to mental improvement, I wonder how I have made any advances, and especially such as to have given me an honorable station among men."

A little farther he writes: "My spirits get into so deplorable and hypochondriac a state, that I have a thousand times thought death would be a most welcome visiter, and have almost envied those whom I have just heard to have passed from the bondage and auxiliaries of this life."

"As I grow older, my system is evidently getting more and more under the influence of the preceding causes. From the smallest article of food used in the evening, the next morning I am rendered uncomfortable in the extreme; my mental faculties are hebetated, and I am so vertiginous as scarcely to be able to collect my ideas or go on with a demonstration. The latter state has indeed become so constant and frequent, that I have frequently thought my labors as a public teacher were becoming too imperfect and confused to deserve respect, and that it would be better, perhaps, for me to retire and seek for some other occupation."

The journal to which allusion has been made, kept irregularly, with long intermissions, is a history of this most remarkable mental conflict, of this life-struggle, continued, with but short intervals during existence, perverting all its blessings, and overshadowing every enjoyment with a sense of desolation. This state of mind recalls the fabled Eumenides of the ancients, pursuing their victim with relentless persecution. In 1826, in looking into himself for a solution of this mystery, he asks: "Does this feeling depend upon an act of injustice or of turpitude which I may have committed at a former period of life, which now, preying upon my conscience, destroys its rest? None such is in my remembrance, but my actions have not been perfect. I have attempted to walk faithfully before men; but have I walked faithfully before God?"

On this point he would not acquit himself. Had this desponding state of mind been limited to his religious opinions and state, it might have been attributed to an excessively sensitive, or to a morbid condition of conscientiousness, that could not be satisfied with any performance of duties or religious services.

But there was no such limitation. It was not confined to a single sentiment, or train of thought, or particular views. It was general, embracing every view of life; it was diffused over the whole mind as a common feeling. It resembled a continued polar night, illuminated by transient coruscations.

Almost every page of his journal furnishes evidences of this state of mind, of his undaunted courage in sustaining the conflict, never yielding, constantly rallying and summoning all his resources to resist the assaults of this inexorable and internal foe to his peace and happiness, an adversary planted in his path opposing his progress in ceaseless contest. A few extracts will suffice to verify the accuracy of the statement I have made, and to prove what appears to me a most extraordinary psychical phenomenon.

In 1821, Dr. Horner made a visit to Europe. In respect to it he says: "I do not remember any period of my life more painful, more distracting, which seemed to paralyze more completely every power of my mind, or to destroy more effectually every capability of pleasure. Notwithstanding the diversified and engaging scenes of a European tour, I do not think that for a twelvemonth at least, I had a single unalloyed sensation of pleasure; all was blended with a fixity of mind on distressing subjects, which no effort could dispel or allay. In fact, I thought my existence for the future must be under the influence of invincible melancholy, if not of satiety."

Yet, during this period, the journal of that tour shows him to have been active, diligent in observing and investigating every subject of professional interest, and that could conduce to his improvement. It does not show a trace of this unhappy state of mind.

In February, 1826, he re-commenced his journal, after an interruption of six years. That period had been one of uninterrupted prosperity. He had married the only woman whom he had ever loved, and for whom he felt an unabated attachment. He was the father of two fine children; he had gained an enviable position, was Adjunct Professor to Dr. Physick, whose entire confidence and friendship he enjoyed; he had accumulated a sufficiency to secure his independence, and had succeeded in advancing, by his industry and individual labor, the Anatomical Museum of the University, from an insignificant collection, to one of great interest and importance. After enumerating, dwelling on, and acknowledging with gratitude these great blessings, he continues: "In all of these things I have achieved what, ten years since, appeared to me so much beyond my ability, so much beyond probability, and at the same time so desirable, that, at that time, I should have considered their actual accomplishment as a source and means of happiness which would last through life. Why is it that I still find myself discontented, restless, anxious for the future, frequently desponding, and often miserable? Why is it that the possession of money does not give me the pleasure expected from it? Why is it that the honors of my profession, which, in the rapidity of their coming, have placed me before my competitors, are not felt as such, and are become vapid? Why is it, that unquestionably the most precious ties on earth, those of husband and of father, which promised so much of solid comfort, and such a rallying point in life, do not excite in me an active sense of enjoyment?"

The following record is of date April 26, 1829:—

"I go to bed dissatisfied, taciturn, and looking for no greater comfort on the day to come, than I have enjoyed during the day past. Such is the unprepossessing picture of my life at the present time, and such has it been during the last six weeks; enjoyment has ceased, happiness has fled; I am inactive, worthless, lethargic.

"On former occasions I have been removed from this unworthy and degraded condition, by adopting rules of conduct; and now, hoping for a renewal of divine grace, and submitting to its will, I promise to adopt the following as the basis of my conduct."

Then follow ten rules, modifications of former regulations, that had from time to time been adopted with the same intentions. During the following month, is recorded a mitigation of his mental sufferings, and at the close of it he states: "I now begin to find my mind returning to that state of composure and quiet confidence in the mercies of God which I have from time to time enjoyed."

This intermission was of short duration. A week after, June 17, he writes: "This week has been one of gloom and heaviness, in the midst of the observance of my resolutions. I can attribute it to nothing, except the hypochondriac tendency of my mind."

This "dark fit" hung over him for the two next weeks. On the

21st of June, he continues his journal in the same desponding tenor: "I find it vain to resist the current of one's nature. I am at the present moment, just as I have been for the last four months, a confirmed and dissatisfied *ennuyé*. Discontented with myself and feeling no pleasure or satisfaction in the things around me, and finding every plan abortive, either in study, religion or amusement, from which I hoped to obtain that steady and enduring quietude of mind, which I have on former occasions enjoyed. I must now make up my mind to move down the current of life on those terms that destiny, my peculiar nature, and my particular pursuits seem to have imposed unchangeably on me. I thank my Creator for the many unmerited favors I have received, and am constantly receiving at his hands. I ask pardon and forgiveness for the ingratitude of my nature, which prevents my mind from being illuminated with a single ray of joy, in reflecting on all His goodness. In the midst of the means of happiness, I am the victim of an unhappy destiny; my mind is cast in a mould which makes it insensible to the best gifts of Providence; and all that remains for me, is to submit resignedly during the remainder of the voyage, now drawing to a close, down the overflowing stream of time."

The unhappy and disabling affliction, revealed in the foregoing extracts, was manifested in no exterior sign. The fact must take by surprise all acquainted with him, as it did myself, so long his associate. With what heroic bravery, with what stoical fortitude was it borne! No complaining, no murmur was heard. Every engagement was kept, every duty fulfilled, no necessary labor avoided, no inattention to what he undertook, earnest and zealous in every measure to promote the efficiency of the medical instruction of the University; no stinting of himself to the mere duty imposed on him as a teacher of special anatomy, but adding additional lectures, at extra hours, on general and topographical anatomy. These things and others, all the exertions nearly of his life, were done under the pressure of a moral weight that would have crushed those endowed with far more vigorous and capable mental faculties to the earth.

ADVANTAGES AND PLEASURES OF A PHYSICIAN'S LIFE.

FROM THE LATE INTRODUCTORY LECTURE OF PROF JONATHAN KNIGHT, OF THE MEDICAL INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE.

ANOTHER advantage of the medical profession is, that the mind of the physician is not, and if he is in any degree faithful to his duties cannot be, continually occupied with mere pecuniary matters. He has a right, to be sure, to look forward to a fair remuneration for his services, and usually receives it; but his mind must be mainly occupied with other and higher interests. His duty to his patients, his anxiety for their recovery, his careful study of their diseases and of the means of relieving them, will engross his best and most diligent thoughts, and he will soon find that there are other books more interesting than his day-book and ledger. It is a misfortune attached to any employment, that its pecu-

niary results are its principal attraction. The business that is necessarily begun and pursued under the influence of the often-repeated and much-praised maxim, a penny saved is two pence clear, and a pin a-day is a groat a-year, cannot do much in elevating the mind, or ennobling the feelings, or in raising the man much above the earth on which he dwells.

It is true that such employments may be and often are followed by the liberal-minded man, without self deterioration; still their tendency is to belittle the mind, and to narrow the feelings into the compass of selfishness. I do not mean by this that a business is to be avoided as injurious merely because it is profitable; a gainful employment may be safely followed, so long as the occupation which it gives to the body and mind is its principal attraction.

The mechanic may construct a machine in the hope of a large reward, and yet receive a far higher gratification from the successful exertion of his faculties, and this may be and often is the controlling motive of his labor rather than the pecuniary result. The merchant, while his gains are counted by thousands, may yet be more richly rewarded by the consciousness that his is the controlling mind of large and important interests, that he is successful in developing the resources of his country, and that he is ministering largely to the happiness of his fellow men. In all such cases, though accumulation may follow thirst, yet to accumulate is not made the chief purpose of life. From the temptation so prevalent in many other employments, to pursue gain with greediness, the physician is guarded, by the full and constant pre-occupation of his mind by other and higher thoughts, as well as by the early-learnt truth that such a pursuit will be unavailing. The physician who engages in his business with the purpose of becoming rich uppermost in his heart, is very apt soon to leave it, and to become the nostrum monger, or the "pathy" follower, or to engage in some pursuit more congenial to his spirit, and more likely to gratify his desire. This freedom from temptation to petty gains, and resulting avarice growing out of the business of the physician, is one of its important advantages.

Another advantage of the profession, and one which contributes largely to the happiness of the physician, is that it compels him to possess or to assume cheerfulness of disposition, kindness of demeanor, and a readiness to perform acts of beneficence. These constitute no inconsiderable portion of his stock in trade, and without a liberal share of them he will soon become bankrupt. He must be kind to his patients, considerate of their feelings, patient of their complaints though they may often seem to be unreasonable, and ready to afford them consolation and relief. He must therefore cultivate these feelings until they become a part of his very constitution. He who commences a course of this kind from the necessity of his position, will soon learn to continue it from the love of it; as the features which often called upon to express any one of the strong emotions of the mind, joy or sorrow, pleasure or pain, will become ultimately formed or moulded, so that what at first was transient, will become their habitual expression, so the mind into which any strong emotions habitually enter, whether of necessity, and more especially, when of choice, falls more and more under the influence of such feelings, until it become the

controlling power of its actions. This in-working of the kind feelings which he is so often called upon to express and to experience, is so effective, that it is rare to find a physician advanced in life, who is other than a cheerful, social and benevolent man. The influence of this state upon his own happiness can hardly be over-estimated. It is a law of our nature as definite and as operative as the law of gravitation in its effects upon material bodies, that to do good to others, is to gain it for ourselves, and that our own happiness is very nearly in proportion to the active exertions which are made to promote the happiness of our fellow men.

After all, however, the chief source of the physician's enjoyment springs from the successful result of his efforts to relieve distress, remove disease, and rescue the dying from their danger. As very much of his often disheartening anxiety and despondency is occasioned by the unfavorable termination of the cases submitted to his care, so his greatest joy grows out of those which end favorably. And it is to be remembered that by far the larger number of cases, even of dangerous diseases, end in recovery. There is a pleasure, unappreciable except by experience, in the consciousness of power over disease and of ability to conduct it to a favorable end; there is joy that the life of one dear to many and perhaps important to the community, is saved; there is the feeling of gratitude fairly earned and often liberally bestowed. It is doubtful whether the physician ever feels a more honest and gratifying elation, than upon the recovery of his first patient from dangerous sickness. It is difficult to describe the emotion of the physician, who after long-watching the progress of a dangerous sickness, first sees the light of hope breaking in upon the darkness with which it has been shrouded.

EXPERIMENTS ON THE USE OF COD-LIVER OIL IN FATTENING ANIMALS.

BY JAMES E. POLLOCK, M.D., ETC., LONDON.

In the course of a careful observation of the effects of cod-liver oil, it occurred to me that experiments might with great advantage be performed both on the healthy human subject and on cattle, with a view to ascertaining its positive powers of fattening when the assimilating functions are in a normal condition. With the use of this agent in arresting the progress of chronic disease we are becoming daily more familiar, and have already run into an extreme which might have been anticipated, in expecting extravagant results and an universality of application which we have not as yet discovered to be the property of any remedy which we possess. It were likely to prove a corrective to these extremes were we to study with minute care and observation the physiological effects of our favorite drug, and rather to permit our theories explanatory of its action to take their rise from experiments, than to develop themselves from the chemical composition of the oil, which contains ingredients sufficiently numerous to puzzle the most ingenious chemist in his attempt to apportion to each its effects on the animal economy.

The points to be ascertained with precision seem to me to be—first, whether the deposition of fat in healthy animals can be increased by the administration of cod-liver oil ; and, secondly, the limits within which its action is manifested—a consideration which includes defining the quantity which, when taken, is assimilated into healthy fat, and in excess of which disease is generated.

Leaving the more general and highly-interesting questions regarding the bearing of these points on disease for future observations, I will shortly state what little practical information I can offer towards an elucidation of these questions.

About two years ago, when on a visit to an intelligent friend residing on his own farm in Essex, and whose attention has been actively directed to the practical application of science to agriculture, it occurred to me to suggest to him the use of cod-liver oil in fattening cattle, stating my belief that it might be possible to obtain by its administration a decided saving in the cost of feeding. I proposed that he should separate off such of his stock as were to be the subjects of experiment, and that the weight of the animals, the price obtained, and the outlay for food, should be carefully noted in comparison with others fed in the ordinary manner. The variety of my friend's occupations prevented his giving to my plan the minute attention which could have been desired, and the results of which I had hoped before this to publish ; but the following letter from him contains matter of much interest, and, if I mistake not, foundation for future experiment and investigation.

" You asked me to write you some particulars of my experiments upon fattening animals with cod-liver oil. I will not attempt to give you any very minute details, but will endeavor to place before you a general view of what we have done, and as last winter I carried my plans out more fully than the preceding one, I will particularly speak of my operations at that time. And first of pigs. I kept upon an average three hundred, and killed from twenty to thirty per week, mostly porkers, from five to fifteen stone weight. The experiments were made by dividing off twenty pigs, and weighing each lot, keeping the meal separate, giving one lot two ounces of oil per diem, and both as much meal as they liked. I found the pigs taking the oil ate less meal, weighed the heaviest, and made the most money per stone in the London market, the fat being firm and white. Subsequently I have found that for small pigs one ounce of oil will do better. To larger pigs I have given a quarter of a pint per diem, and to small pigs also, but I have always found I lost money and credit for good pork when the larger quantity was given, and when killed the fat was yellow, and the flesh tasted fishy. From the weekly examination of so many pigs, I have concluded that the oil in no case cured a pig troubled with lung disease, but that when given in small quantities it was profitable, as the animal fattened upon a less amount of food, the oil tending to produce fat quickly. My experiments have led me to conclude that if given in a quantity which cannot be digested it is then passed over the system in the shape of bile, so as to cause the yellow appearance in the fat. The farmer

in such case would lose money, as my man did for me, believing that if so small a quantity were good, more would be better.

"The result with sheep has been more satisfactory ; with one ounce per day the fat has been beautifully white, and the flesh has been compared to short-cake, being light and easy of digestion. The lot of eighty gave general satisfaction to the consumers ; but the butchers complained of lighter weight than the healthy, well-to-do appearance of the sheep led them to expect.

"As regards bullocks. Last year ten short horns took each from a quarter of a pint to three quarters of a pint daily, and paid better than any other bullocks ; these were sold for London. The opinion of all who saw them was, that it was impossible for any beasts to go on so well as they did in the usual way with so little food. They commenced with the quarter pint, and ended with three quarters. I fancied, on the whole, that they did better on half a pint per diem. I purchased for an experiment this year eight Herefords, even or regular beasts. They are divided into two lots, one of which has a quarter of a pint of oil daily, and all live alike.

"The bullocks have the oil mixed up with meal and chaff ; the pigs with dry meal ; the sheep have split beans soaked in oil. The commonest cod oil costs from 2s. 8d to 3s. per gallon. I have tried sperm oil against cod oil, and prefer the latter. I should add that this year I only use an ounce for sheep and pigs, and four ounces per day for each bullock. The relief to a broken-winded horse from the administration of cod oil is very soon perceptible."

1. It will be observed that in the above experiments on pigs, bullocks, and sheep, a greater degree of fattening was obtained from a less amount of food when cod oil was used.

2. That in all the animals there seemed to be a decided limit to the quantity which could be digested ; that for pigs being two ounces, the smaller thriving best on one ounce, and the larger hogs being over-fed on four ounces per diem. Sheep took an ounce, and bullocks a quarter to three quarters of a pint, and "paid better than any other bullocks ;" but in all these cases a much larger quantity was tried experimentally, and it invariably disagreed, producing derangement of digestion, and "causing a yellow appearance of the fat and a fishy taste." This was remarked by the butcher who purchased the animals, and who, at my request, was not informed of the peculiar mode of fattening which was adopted. Whether the above experiments may induce farmers to adopt cod oil as a judicious article of food, more efficacious and cheaper for fattening their stock than those ordinarily used, I will not presume to decide ; but I offer the foregoing results to the profession, persuaded of their importance and interest in studying the application and physiological action of oils on the animal system.—*London Lancet.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JANUARY 4, 1854.

American Medical Association—Assistance to its Committees.—We present below a circular from each of the Chairmen of two Committees appointed by the American Medical Association. That by Dr. Hooker was received directly from him, to be laid before the profession in this part of the country; and the other, by Dr. Bolton, we take pleasure in copying from our southern exchanges. With regard to the first, we should consider it a reproach to the medical faculty of the North if another meeting of the Association is allowed to take place without a report being made from the Committee—and they certainly cannot present a satisfactory one unless assistance is rendered them by their brethren, and that speedily. It is well known that Dr. Hooker, the able Chairman of the Committee, will turn to good account all the material that may be furnished. The Committee on anæsthetic agents have a most important matter in their hands. They, too, must depend upon aid from the faculty, who are, throughout the whole country, called upon for the facts that may be in their possession in regard to the subject. Other Committees will also need the co-operation of the profession, who it is hoped will render it cheerfully, as the objects of the Association can be fully attained in no other way than through the prompt and efficient action of its Committees.

To the Medical Profession in New England and New York:

The undersigned, Chairman of the Committee on Epidemics in New England and New York, in order to make a Report at the coming session of the American Medical Association, must have material for this purpose from medical men in different portions of the field indicated. No report has been made from this section since the appointment of the Committee at the session in Charleston, in 1851, *simply from want of such material*. The Chairman would therefore call upon such of the profession in New England and New York, as have in their possession interesting facts, or results of general observations in regard to epidemics, to furnish them to him, that they may be embodied in his Report. It would be well to have the observations cover all the period since the appointment of the Committee, viz., May, 1851. It is not deemed necessary to specify the points on which persons can report, as these will readily suggest themselves.

It is desired that all communications be forwarded by the 1st of March.
New Haven, Ct., Dec. 20, 1853. WORTHINGTON HOOKER.

Anæsthesia in Midwifery and Fatal Effects of Anæsthetic Agents.—The undersigned was appointed by the American Medical Association to report on the above mentioned subjects at its next session in St. Louis. He therefore respectfully urges his medical brethren to make extensive and close observations on anæsthesia in midwifery, and also to analyze carefully all alleged cases of death from the use of anæsthetic agents, and to forward the results to him before February 1st, 1854. The latter cases must be those only occurring within the present year of the Association.

Richmond, Va.

JAMES BOLTON.

The United States Thermometer.—One of Dr. Slack's newly-graduated thermometers has been received. A patent has been obtained for it, and they will soon be on sale. The instrument is beautifully made; and notwithstanding the difficulty of substituting a new and untried article for an old and familiar one, the advantages of this are so apparent, that it will in time, we think, supersede that in common use. Since the publication of the article in the Journal of Nov. 16th, the following additional remarks have been received from Dr. Slack.

"I feel quite confident myself, that scientific men will see the advantage and fitness of my instrument and give it a favorable reception. I might have added to my article in your Journal, that Fahrenheit's instrument was altogether unfit for the use of our most southern States. South of Columbia, S. C., the thermometer is never seen so low as zero. That point to them is worse than Greek. They can have no correct apprehension of it. It is the common impression that Fahrenheit obtained his zero by a frig-
rific mixture, composed of equal parts of snow and salt. But I think this could not have been, as such chemical mixtures were not in use until long after his time. The zero of Fahrenheit is the lowest point to which the thermometer ever sinks at London, and I take it that this was also the point to which it sunk at Leipsic, where the thermometer was probably graduated by Fahrenheit. The zero of Fahr. is therefore the extreme degree of cold at Leipsic, in Germany, rather a queer starting point for us to go by, as every other place also has a zero as well as Leipsic. The cold of snow and salt must be a mere coincidence. The same point, I presume, might be produced by twenty other frigoric mixtures. The science of chemistry did not commence until the time of Dr. Black, which was more than half a century after the improvement of the thermometer by Fahrenheit.

"Is the sensation of cold altogether a relative thing? In Newfoundland, ten degrees to the north of us, the spring-water, or well-water (which is about the same thing), is ten degrees colder than ours, or 38° Fahrenheit. Does this water taste any colder to them than ours, which is 48°? In other words, does not the spring water of Georgia, which is ten degrees warmer than ours, taste just as cold to the Georgians as ours does to us? Or as cold as the spring-water of the Newfoundlanders does to them—which is twenty degrees colder than the spring-water of Georgia? I think it must be so, and yet it is a singular fact. Each latitude is accustomed to a certain degree of yearly heat, and from this all sensations of cold appear to arise as it relates to the variations during the year. Spring-water, and all water which comes from forty feet below the surface, is of the same temperature the year round, probably never varying much from one age to another. The people of Georgia experience ten degrees less of yearly cold than we do. Are they not in the same relative position as to the cold they experience that we are? The heat they experience is just as much above their spring-water temperature as ours is."

Eagerness for an Extensive Practice.—There is very naturally an active strife among medical men to obtain business. The great ambition is to be known as the possessor of a large practice, rather than as a writer, a teacher, or a wise or learned man. There are indeed striking exceptions to this remark, as some excellent authors are found in our ranks. But the great majority pursue a different path, and some of them, as it would sometimes appear, would be glad to monopolize all the sick if they could. The instances of disagreement, ill will, and unneighborly conduct between gentle-

men in our profession, oftener proceed from a real or imagined trenching upon each other's beat of practice, than from any other cause. We know persons of generous natures, kind, charitable and obliging in every other respect; yet, if another physician happens, through the caprice of a patient, or from any circumstance, to attend on one of their customers, they give way to a paroxysm of rage. The old-fashioned rounds of family practice are gradually becoming smaller, even in the country towns. A prodigious increase of physicians, beyond the actual demand, together with the multiplication of irregular pretenders, conduces to this result. But this is no cause of complaint, and it is quite useless to fritter life away in a pet, because we cannot retain things in the condition in which we found them. Instead of quarreling with the world because it will not conform to our convenience, it is far better to shape ourselves to the times. A happy disposition is worth more than a vast estate. The public avoid those who exhibit too much eagerness in the pursuit of professional patronage. They distrust those who complain of being neglected. No talent, accompanied by industry and a good moral character, goes unrewarded in this country. People cannot be dragooned into employing certain medical advisers. An article on temperaments, recently published in some of the Journals, had the following couplet:—

“ ‘Twas my pleasure, prayer and pride,
That man might know how fat I died.”

This is admirably expressive of another kind of aspiration not uncommon among those where a love for something more elevated should be predominant. When avarice gets the ascendancy, physic becomes a mere instrumentality for rapid accumulation. Science is invariably neglected when a morbid craving for trade takes possession of the man. Success in any calling depends upon economizing hours, and improving opportunities for advancement. But even when all has been done, it is ridiculous to lament because our patrons are fickle and our friends die off and give place to strangers. Philosophy and common sense are studies worth pursuing by those of our brethren who are liable to be unduly affected by these changes. But above all they should avoid giving way to envious repining. As a general thing, the difficulty is in ourselves, when our services are not as extensively required as we think they ought to be. The truest test of adequate preparation for the details of practice, is the constant and continued demand for the exercise of our knowledge and skill.

Morbus Coxarius, again.—In the notices which we have already given of Dr. March's treatise on hip-disease, we omitted to mention that an edition of only 100 copies was printed separate from the volume of the Transactions of the American Medical Association. These were done expressly for and at the expense of the author, and the small edition is already exhausted by gratuitous distribution, leaving none to supply the demand upon the author which our first notice and his popularity have created. When Dr. M.'s enlarged work, alluded to in the Journal of Dec. 21, is published, it may be obtained by all who wish it.

Felt Splints.—Prof. F. H. Hamilton, of Buffalo, gives, in the Medical Journal of that city, the following recipe for making felt splints, which he thinks in some respects superior to any in use.

“ Dissolve three pounds of gum shellac in two quarts of alcohol. It

should be dissolved in a tin vessel, furnished with a tight cover to prevent evaporation. Spread a piece of old or new woolen cloth on a board, and with a clean brush saturate both sides of the cloth with the solution. Hang it up until it is thoroughly dried. Lay it again upon the board and apply a second coat of the solution to one side only of the cloth. Dry again, and apply a third coat to the same side. There will now be three successive layers upon one side and one on the opposite. While the last coat is yet fresh, fold the cloth so that the side having three coats shall be applied to itself. Now with a hot flat-iron smooth and press the surface together. When it is cold, a slight rubbing with sand paper makes it fit for use.

"It becomes a firm, almost unyielding board, but exposure to a moderate heat will make it pliant, so that it can easily and accurately be adapted to any surface."

In connection with the above, we copy the following notice of a method of applying an immovable apparatus, in cases of fracture, lately introduced into practice in Paris. It is given in a letter from Dr. Williams, of Cincinnati, to the editor of the *Western Journal*.

"The many-tailed bandage of Sculpetus is prepared and wet with water. A portion of plaster of Paris, such as is commonly used in stucco work, thoroughly dried for the occasion, is sprinkled upon each strip, which is instantly applied. In a few seconds the whole bandage is perfectly dry and solid—as soon as the stucco *sets*. The advantages are that, drying instantly, it maintains its own extension and counter-extension, and the limb cannot easily shorten. To prevent irritation of the skin, the limb should be enveloped in a roller before the application of the plaster."

Report of the Howard Association of New Orleans.—It is truly remarked in this report, a copy of which has just been received, that the proceedings of the Howard Association may well be regarded as a history of New Orleans during the epidemic of 1853. The report contains, first, the number of cases of yellow fever which came under the care of the Association, with the nativity of the patients; second, a list of the contributions which were so generously contributed from all parts of the country; third, the expenditures; fourth, remarks; and, fifth, a list of the active members of the Association. The following extract will show the results in a more condensed form than we could otherwise give them.

"It will be seen by reference to the above statements that the total receipts of our treasury since the 14th of July—on which day we regularly organized for action in view of the impending epidemic—have amounted to \$228,927 46; and that the sum expended from the same date, is \$159,190 32, which together with an approximated estimate of \$3500, for outstanding debts, is \$162,690, 32; leaving a balance this day of \$66,237 14; of which balance, \$36,000 is invested in mortgage on real estate, bearing 8 per cent. interest per annum, and \$30,000 specially deposited in bank, subject to draft after 15 days' notice, and bearing 4 per cent. interest per annum.

"The total number of cases of yellow fever attended to in this city, as per returns of the members, is 11,088, to which we might add several thousands of cases in the surrounding country, where the offices of the Association have been extended, and where, in many instances, in addition to the means forwarded, our members have attended in person."

Of the whole number of patients, 5845 were natives of Ireland, 2890 of Germany, and 716 of the United States; 5203 were males, and 5885 fe-

males; 9415 were adults, and 1673 under 16 years; 2942 died, and 8146 were discharged, cured.

We regret to notice, that in the list of contributions those from our city do not appear. They were forwarded, we believe, to New York, and are probably included in the \$58,183 76 credited, in the report, to the citizens of that city. The names of other large cities, with the amounts, are found in their alphabetical place, but the name of Boston is no where mentioned. It is the more to be regretted, as this is an official document, and will long remain as a memorial of the fraternal sympathy and generous aid furnished their stricken brethren by the citizens in every part of our republic. This aid is most gratefully acknowledged in the report.

Quack Medicines.—We are not credulous enough to believe that any immediate good can result from waging war against that prodigious system of charlatanism and bare-faced impudence which consists in the manufacture and sale of quack medicines:—

“It gives me much despair,” said Sir Richard Steele, 140 years ago, “it gives me much despair in the design of reforming the world by my speculations, when I find there always arise, from one generation to another, successive cheats and bubbles as naturally as beasts of prey, and those that are to be their food. There is hardly a man in the world, one would think, so ignorant, as not to know that the ordinary quack-doctors who publish their great abilities on little brown billets, distributed to all who pass by, are to a man, impostors and murderers; yet such is the credulity of the vulgar, and the impudence of those professors, that the affair still goes on, and new promises, of what was never done before, are made every day. What aggravates the jest is, that even this promise has been made as long as the memory of man can trace it, yet nothing performed, and yet still prevails.”

The evil, then, is deep-rooted. It springs from the cause that Faraday lamented, when, in dealing a death-blow to “table-turning,” he expressed his disgust for the propagators of this delusion, indeed, but his deeper disgust for those systems of education which made such a delusion possible.

Virginia Medical and Surgical Journal.

A Hospital in Richmond.—The want of sufficient hospital accommodations has long been felt in Richmond, and we recently urged the profession to unite and petition the Legislature to satisfy the public necessities in this respect. In consequence of the general apathy on the subject, a number of our most respectable physicians, Drs. Deane, Marx, Cabell, Bolton and Roddey, have determined on establishing a private hospital. A commodious building has been purchased and the arrangements for the reception of patients are being rapidly perfected.—*Ibid.*

MARRIED.—At North Chelsea, 21st ult., Roswell Cutler, M.D., of Boston, to Caroline Amanda Fiske, of Lowell.—At Medford, Dr. C. McQuesten, of Hamilton, Canada, to Miss Elizabeth Fuller, of Medford.

Deaths in Boston for the week ending Saturday noon, Dec. 31st, 83. Males, 48—females, 37. Accidents, 2—disease of the bowels, 1—burns and scalds, 1—congestion of the brain, 1—consumption, 12—convulsions, 2—croup, 10—droopy in the head, 1—debility, 1—infantile diseases, 3—puerperal, 1—epilepsy, 1—typhoid fever, 1—scarlet fever, 4—hooping cough, 3—hemorrhage, 1—disease of the heart, 1— influenza, 1— inflammation of the lungs, 7—malaria, 3—menstrue, 16—old age, 2—palsy, 1—rheumatism, 1—smallpox, 1—sorefula, 1—suffocation, 1—teething, 1—thrush, 2—tumor, 1—unknown, 1.

Under 5 years, 47—between 5 and 20 years, 10—between 20 and 40 years, 10—between 40 and 60 years, 9—above 60 years, 9. Born in the United States, 72—Ireland, 12—Gibraltar, 1. The above includes 6 deaths at the City Institutions.

Arrest of Development in the Fetus.—Dr Crisp brought before the notice of the London Medical Society the following case:—Mrs. A— brought her infant, aged eleven months, to the Metropolitan Dispensary on Tuesday last, Nov. 15th. On investigating the child's symptoms, the mother stated "that the infant had only one leg; on examination, Dr. Crisp found the right leg nearly absent, there being only about an inch below the knee-joint, and to this was attached a small, round, integumentary appendage. The mother says that her first child, now nine years of age, has a very large long head, she at the commencement of her pregnancy having been frightened by a horse. During the early months of her last pregnancy, she saw a crowd of persons in the street, and not believing herself to be in the family way, she pushed through the crowd, and was horrified at the sight of a sailor without a leg or legs. Her impression was, when she found that she was with child, that the fetus would be deformed, but she never anticipated that it would be born with one leg." Dr. Crisp remarked that he had always been a disbeliever in the effect of mental impressions of the mother upon the embryo, as no nervous communication existed between the uterus and placenta; but the instance in question somewhat startled him, and although the occurrence of the deformity might have been merely a coincidence, he thought the case was worthy of record, as it was only by the accumulation of such examples that the question could be ultimately settled.

Mr. Hunt inquired the condition of the funis in this case. He recollects an instance somewhat like it, which occurred in his practice some years since. In this case the arm, instead of the leg, was the seat of the arrest of development. The funis was found longer than usual, and tied in a knot round the arm at the point of malformation. The knot had interfered with the circulation, and arrested the development of the limb. There was no good proof in this case that the mother had been affected with any peculiar impression to cause the deformity.—*London Lancet.*

Lethæan Liniment is the very appropriate name given by Dr. Douglass, to a new combination, published by him in the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal:—"It is made by digesting a bar of fresh turpentine soap and four ounces of gum camphor in a gallon of good alcohol for two weeks in the heat of the sun. It is then bottled up while hot, and one drachm of chloroform added to every four ounces, set in a cool place, and shaken occasionally while congeulating. The turpentine affords," says Dr. D., "the best means, in my opinion, of applying chloroform to the skin, because, by its adhesiveness, it holds that volatile fluid longer and more firmly in contact with the surface than any other substance could do. My mode of applying it, is to coat the part well with the liniment and cover it immediately with a piece of good paper, which adheres firmly and produces a gentle burning, tingling sensation, which, in neuralgia, rheumatism, irritability of the stomach, cramp, colic, &c., is perfectly delightful."—*Iowa Medical Journal.*

Worm taken from the Human Eye.—Dr. A. G. Walters, of Pittsburg, has recently removed a worm, about one-eighth of an inch in length, from the right eye of a patient from Indiana. It had increased so much in size and activity within a year or two past, as not only to obstruct vision but to cause great pain. Two unsuccessful attempts had been previously made by different surgeons. It was of a milky color, and very active.—*Pittsburg Jour.*